

Application No. 09/989,714

Filed: November 20, 2001

TC Art Unit: 2673

Confirmation No.: 9578

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 48, 50-65 and 67-85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hamaji (US 6,337,680 B1). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested, as set forth further as follows:

Applicant's invention successfully implements a rollerbar or rollerball as a cursor control device using an optical sensor comprising a single sensing component. Toward this end, the optical sensor compares images of a curved or rounded target surface at known time intervals to determine motion. See Applicant's specification at page 13, lines 6-10; page 12, lines 1-11, 19-21. In particular, independent claims 1 and 50 recite a curved or rounded target, and the optical sensor is operative to compare images of the surface at known time intervals.

Hamaji, in contrast, discloses a photoelectric detector that requires a special grid with evenly spaced lines on the roller. In describing the operation of the photodetector, Hamaji states: "A measurement value representing the distance by which the slider 20 is moved is obtained from the number of stripes 20d thus recognized." Accordingly, the photodetector in Hamaji does not compare images of the surface of the roller at known time intervals. Accordingly, claims 1 and 50 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to be patentable over Hamaji.

Claim 66 has been rejected under § 103(a) over Hamaji. This claim has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Claim 11 has been rejected under § 103(a) over Hamaji in view of Nitsuma (US 5,164,712). This claim is believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

-11-

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Accordingly, no further comment thereon is believed necessary at this time.

The drawings have been objected to. Claim 66 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and indication thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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